Project on Composite Fish Culture by ICAR. The above research projects operated in a number of States in the country in coordination with the State governments. The above technology has been adopted in the country under ongoing programme of Development of Freshwater aquaculture being implemented in the States through Fish Farmers Development Agencies (FFDAs). As a result, the average pond productivity in fish farming has raised from 0.5 tonnes/ha in the early 1970s to 2.3 tonnes/ha/year at present. With the adoption of above technology, inland fish production in the country has increased from 9.87 lakh tonnes in 1983-84 to 34.57 lakh tonnes in 2003-04.

Constructions of cold storages by NHB

†501. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme to provide 25 per cent of grants has been formulated by the National Horticulture Board for the construction of cold storages of 100 metric tonnes capacity;

(b) whether it is a fact that the National Horticulture Board provides grants only to the tune of Rs. 4000/- per metric tonne capacity;

(c) whether the Board would provide grants at the rate of Rs. 15000/- per metric tonne keeping in view the prevailing rates of building material;

(d) if so, the details therof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) The National Horticulture Board is implementing a scheme "Capital Investment Subsidy for Construction/Expansion/Modernisation of Cold Storages for Horticulture Produce" by providing capital investment subsidy @25% of total project cost with a ceiling of Rs. 50.00 lakhs in general areas and @ 33.3% of project cost with limit of Rs. 60.00 lakhs for North Eastern States for setting up of cold storages of capacity ranging from 10 metric tonnes to 5000 metric tonnes. For the purpose of granting subsidy assistance, the cost of construction of a cold storage unit is taken as Rs. 4000/- per metric tonne, while the subsidy is released @25% of cost or Rs. 1000/- metric tonne in the general areas and Rs. 1200/-metric tonne in the North Eastern States.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) to (e) No such proposal is under consideration with National Horticulture Board as the existing rate of assistance has been considered to be adequate.

Suicides in Maharashtra

502. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 140 farmers committed suicides in Maharashtra between 2002 and 2004;

(b) if so, whether Government had at that time failed in protecting the lives of the innocent farmers;

(c) if so, whether Government have taken action against officials/ concerned persons responsible for this gross irresponsible act; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

National Horticulture Mission in Orissa

503. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to launch National Horticulture Mission in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Mission proposes to adopt an end-to-end approach covering production, post-harvest management to marketing to ensure appropriate return to the growers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government